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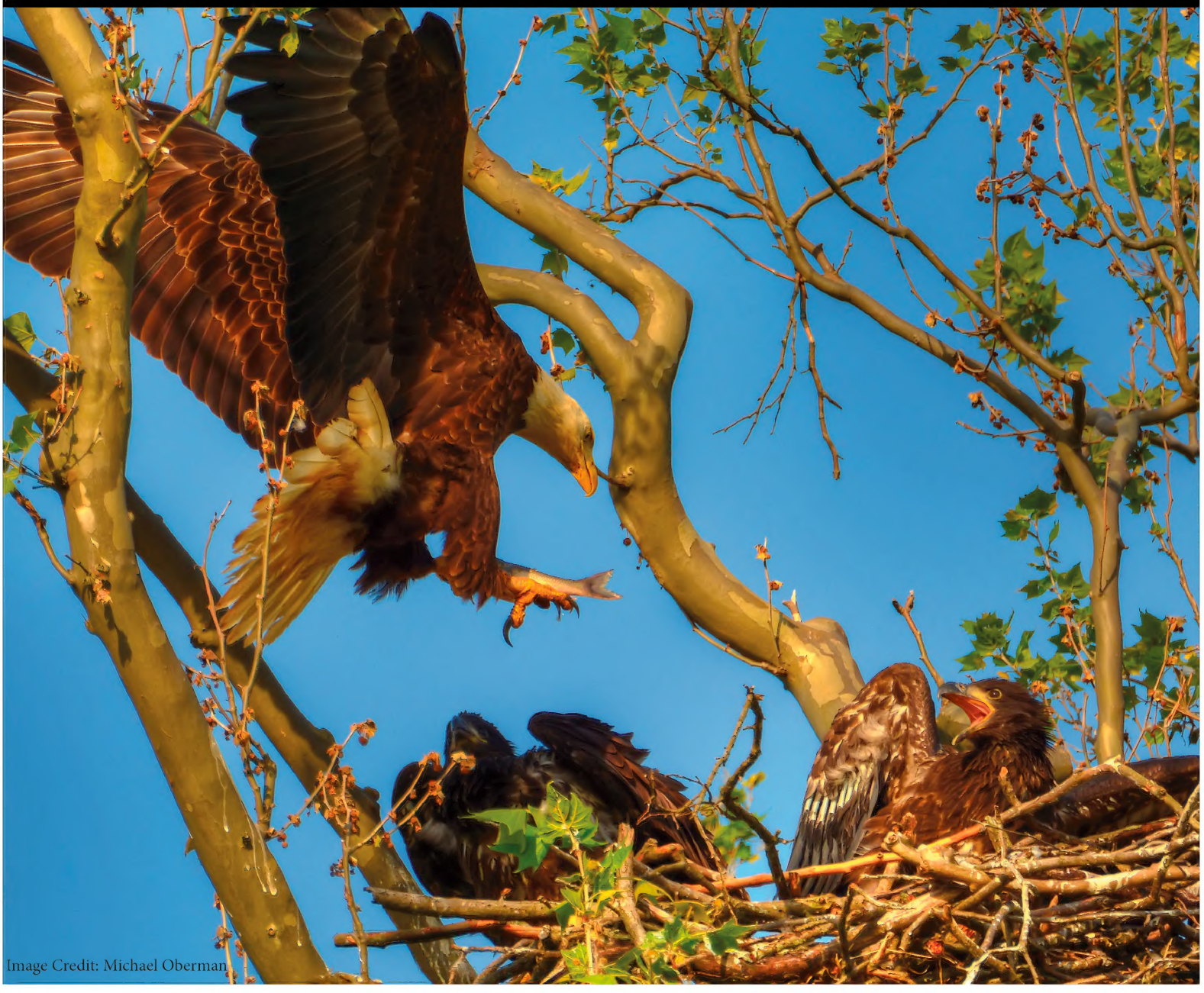

Image Credit: Michael Oberman

HAIL to OUR BIRDS

Hogan rescinds land offer for new Redskins Stadium, but land swap deal remains in play PAGE 8

The Maryland Yellowthroat
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Editor's Note

Hail to Maryland's wild birds! In this issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* MOS asks members to follow the proposed land swap deal made between Governor Hogan and former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. Even though Hogan has rescinded an offer to the Washington Redskins, that would have allowed a new stadium to be constructed, the land swap deal remains in place for future development. Oxen Cove Park and Oxen Hill Farm will be impacted by this deal, as will the birds that thrive there, including nesting Bald Eagles. Take action by speaking out for Maryland's wild birds. More on page 8.

Michael Oberman, a professional photographer based in Columbia, captured our cover photo. Visit https://about.me/michael_oberman for more information about his work and to view his Flickr gallery.

Thank you to our contributors, photographers, supporters, and to our membership for an excellent issue.

Hail to our birds!

Orietta C. Estrada, Editor
The Maryland Yellowthroat
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President's Corner

New Threats to Breeding Bird Colonies on Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands

My wife and I spent last Christmas on a rocky little island in an empty part of the Caribbean. Cayman Brac is one of the three Cayman Islands and where my wife was born. The island is 435 miles south of Miami and 87 miles from Grand Cayman, the main island. It is dominated by a limestone plateau, the Bluff, which runs for most of the length of the 12-mile-long island. The thickly-vegetated plateau gradually rises from sea level near the island's western end to about 140 feet above at its eastern end.

Mother and chick brown boobies, east end of Cayman Brac.

Apart from an occasional visitor, the Caymans have no gulls and only two species of tern: Royal and Least. However, the islands do have four iconic species of seabird, all of which breed on one or more of the islands: Magnificent Frigatebird and Red-footed Booby on Little Cayman, Brown Booby on Cayman Brac, and White-tailed Tropicbird on Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman.

The Brown Booby nests primarily along the cliffs at the eastern end of Cayman Brac. According to an IBA report for UK's Overseas Territories (circa 2013), there were an estimated 500 birds in 1983, less than 100 in 1996, and 100-200 in 2003. At most, we counted 15 boobies on any one day.

The tropicbirds nest in holes and crevices which pockmark the vertical sides of the eastern cliffs. The same IBA report states that there were about 800 tropicbirds on the island in 1985, less than 60 pairs in 1997, and 100 pairs in 2003. The local people we spoke to all agreed that tropicbirds numbers have dropped significantly; one noting that they used to "fill the sky." I only saw or heard Tropicbirds on three separate days in January out of our six-week stay, with three birds being the highest total. However, this species only visits the islands to breed from late January to August, so we may have been too early in their season to see their maximum numbers.

Historically, colonies of both species have enjoyed relative isolation from human interference, thanks to the inaccessibility of their nesting sites. However, several new threats have recently emerged, all linked to human activities.

Rock Climbers

In the last 15 years Cayman Brac has become popular among rock climbers. Over 100 routes have been laid out with titanium bolts cemented into the cliff to facilitate climbing. I spoke by phone with a representative of Rock Iguana, Ltd. the company which caters to climbers on the island. She assured me that they are well aware of the risk of disturbing the boobies or the tropicbirds at their nests and avoid climbing near active nest sites. Not all climbers use Rock Iguana's services, however, and some may be less respectful of the breeding sites.

Foot Traffic

Most of the boobies nest on the lip of the cliffs along the eastern end of the island. A popular footpath follows the cliff, within clear sight of several booby nests. Signs warn against interfering with the birds, but there appears to be no monitoring or enforcement activity.

Cats and Rats

Feral and free-ranging pet cats are numerous and readily seen throughout inhabited parts of the island. Fortunately, nesting areas are still remote from the nearest human habitation, but houses will almost certainly be built nearby. Cats are quite mobile and may already be a serious threat to the boobies. A local conservationist reported five booby chicks taken by cats in one recent weekend. This level of predation is clearly unsustainable.

Both brown and black rats are present on the island. These may be a serious threat, based on the experience of other islands throughout the world.

Invasive Green Iguana

Cayman Brac has a unique endemic sub-species of Rock Iguana, *Cyclura nubila caymanensis*, a slow-moving herbivore whose numbers are in decline. This native species poses no threat to birds. The invasive Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) could be another matter. These invaders are fast moving and easily climb trees, swim, and run. Native to Central America, this large iguana has become very plentiful on Grand Cayman with a population

estimate of 1.5 million on this 100-square mile island. Only a few green iguanas have been seen on Cayman Brac, but they have the potential to increase greatly. If this happens, green iguanas could be a threat to boobies at their exposed cliff top nests. Fortunately, their diet is mainly plant-based, but egg predation is possible.

Possible remedies to reverse the decline in booby numbers are: eliminate feral cats, restrict human access to nest sites during the breeding season, enforce guidelines for rock climbers to minimize disturbance of the birds at their nests. Of the four threats listed, it appears that feral cats pose the most danger to boobies.

None of these threats seem likely to affect tropicbirds, with the possible exception of rock climbers.

There seems to be no local remedy for the decline in tropicbird numbers since this is probably due to factors which operate away from the island, such as depletion of the fisheries where they feed. See www.datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/white-tailed-tropicbird-phaethon-lepturus.

The Cayman Islands Government's Department of the Environment (DOE) and the Cayman Brac branch of the Islands' National Trust, are well aware of the declines in both species and are monitoring them. DOE's Flicker newsletter is worth reading; go to www.doe.ky/resources/newsletters/flicker/.

Further reading:

Photo Guide to the Birds of the Cayman Islands, P. E. Bradley, Y. Rey-Millet, 2012

Pub. Christopher Helm, London

The Birds of Cayman Brac and Where to Find Them, K. Prescott, 1997

Pub. National Trust for the Cayman Islands

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd, President MOS

Any member is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Do you have a perspective that you would like to share with the birding community? We would like to hear from you: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org.

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

Inaugural Bird Conservation Symposium Raises $3000 for Youth Fund

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) and YMOS hosted the first annual Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium on Jan. 26 at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center. Expectations of participants, speakers, and even the organizing committee were blown away! More than 100 attendees helped us realize the value of this type of gathering, which will become an annual event. We are grateful to Mike Parr, president of American Bird Conservancy, for kicking off the symposium with his informative and inspiring keynote address. Three YMOS members gave presentations on their own projects, which were as high a caliber as the seven presentations given by professionals. Presentations are available on the symposium web page at www.marylandbirds.org/2019-symposium.

YMOS was instrumental in launching the idea for the symposium. YMOS member Patrick Newcombe approached YMOS Coordinator George Radcliffe about organizing a scientific conference on avian research and conservation. MBCP was also thinking about such a conference, and so the genesis of the symposium burst into life. In addition to YMOS co-organizing the symposium, one-fourth of the attendees were young people! It was inspiring to see the amount of interaction between professionals and the new birding generation during breaks.

Perhaps the most exciting news is a new fund that got started with a big bang! Monies raised from sponsorships are going to the newly-established Maryland Avian Research & Conservation (MARC) Fund for Youth. Our estimate of what we hoped to raise was more than doubled. Through the generous donations of our sponsors — including MOS, Anne Arundel Bird Club, and several individual MOS members — we raised a total of $3,100 for the MARC Fund! This fund is the first of its kind in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic and empowers youth to conduct avian research or conservation. Grants will be awarded for project ideas that incorporate one or more of the 143 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Maryland. The MARC Fund committee is finalizing the application process and application information will be posted on the YMOS web page and the MBCP website. Start thinking of your project ideas now. We are looking forward to inspiring Maryland youth to take their passion for birds to the next level!

Chris Eberly, MBCP

Place Your Announcement in *The Yellowthroat*

Reach members interested in your services by placing an announcement in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. For more information, please contact the Editor: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Volunteers Wanted

MOS is an organization that relies on members to volunteer their time and energy. There are several open positions available.

Treasurer

This is a vital position that must be filled by September 2019. MOS cannot function without a treasurer. Anyone who might be interested should contact Dave Webb.

Scholarship Committee Chair

Anna Urciolo has run the scholarships program with charm and diligence. She now wants to hand over this position to a successor. Anna will be happy to explain what is involved in this position to anyone who is interested.

Breeding Bird Atlas

We are planning for the next Breeding Bird Atlas, beginning in 2020 and ending in 2024. A committee is being formed, but we need more members, including a chair. Please contact Robin Todd if you are interested. No experience necessary!

Bylaws Committee Chair

We are in need of a chair for the Bylaws Committee. Please contact Robin Todd with questions.

Maryland Ornithological Society
Membership Registration Form

The MOS membership year begins September 1

Join one of our 15 state chapters via mdbirds.org/join/chapters/ or send in this form to become a member-at-large.

Name _____
Address _____
Email Address _____
Home Phone ( ) _____ - _____
Work Phone ( ) _____ - _____

Dues category (Check One)

Individual $20__ Household $25__ Junior $5__ Sustaining $50__ Life $1,000__
Amount enclosed $ _____

Please indicate if you would like to receive the MOS bi-monthly publication *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail or view from the MOS website.
I would like to receive *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail: **YES / NO**

Please make your check payable to the **Maryland Ornithological Society**, or **MOS**, and mail it with this completed form to the address below. Thank you for joining MOS!

MOS Treasurer
Maryland Ornithological Society
PO Box 105, Monrovia, MD 21770-0105

The benefits received from Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) membership dues are not considered to be substantial, as determined by criteria in IRS Publication 526. Therefore, members can claim a tax deductible charitable contribution for the full amount of their membership dues. MOS does not release membership lists to any other organization. MOS only uses it for communication with its members.

2019 MOS Convention Field Trip Leaders Needed

The next MOS convention will be held May 31 - June 2, 2019 at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. We have started organizing the convention and are looking for MOS members to lead field trips. Field trip locations are being determined now based on previous convention sites and include: Andelot Farm, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Chesapeake Farms, Eastern Neck NWR, Libby's Nature Trail, Millington WMA, North and South, Pickering Creek Environmental Center, Royal Swan Farm, St. Paul's Church and Millpond, Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, Tuckahoe State Park, Sassafras NRMA, and Chino Farms.

If you are interested in supporting next year's convention as a trip leader, please send your contact information - **name, email address, and phone number** - to Jim Rapp, dlitedirector@comcast.net ASAP. Indicate which half days you can participate (Friday PM, Saturday AM and/or PM, and/or Sunday AM), any particular location(s), and how many trips you would like to lead. If there are other potential sites not listed above, please provide those locations to me and we will investigate including them. If you would like to co-lead, indicate that as well and with whom it would be. Thank you for your consideration and support for MOS.

Meg Harris, Chair MOS Convention 2019
mctharris@gmail.com

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

January 28, 2019

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This status report covers MD/DCRC review package 177. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. No new "state" species were among these records. The species totals on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC remain 453 and 342, respectively.

MD Records Accepted

Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2018-055] Rhodesdale, Dorchester County. 13-Sep-2018. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2014-077] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 17-Aug-1991. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2009-080] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 16-Aug-2009. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2012-079] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 25-Aug-2012. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2013-035] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 30-Jul-2013. One bird.

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2018-053] Poolesville, Montgomery County. 20-Jun-2018. One immature.

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2018-052] Westminster, Carroll County. 10-Aug-2018. One immature.

Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2018-051] Frederick, Frederick County. 18-Aug-2018 through 25-Aug-2018. One immature.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2018-048] Chesapeake Bay, Love Point, Queen Anne's County. 29-Jul-2018 through 14-Aug-2018. One immature.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2018-038] North Beach marsh, North Beach, Calvert County. 17-Jun-2018 through 03-Jul-2018. One juvenile.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2018-041] Blackwater NWR, Cambridge, Dorchester County. 24-Jun-2018. One bird.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2018-050] Pennyfield Lock, Potomac, Montgomery County. 14-Aug-2018 through 15-Aug-2018. One immature.

LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2018-066] Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County. 31-Oct-2018. One bird.

LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2018-071] Masonville, Brooklyn, Baltimore County. 08-Nov-2018. One bird.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2018-064] Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County. 25-Oct-2018. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted

Common Murre, *Uria aalge* [MD/2010-018] Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County. 05-Mar-2000 through 07-Mar-2000. One bird in winter plumage.

DC Records Accepted

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [DC/2018-059] Anacostia, NE, Kenilworth Park. 05-Oct-2018 through 06-Oct-2018. One juvenile.

Taxonomy Updates

The MD/DCRC has updated its web data products to conform to the American Ornithological Society's (AOS) 59th Supplement to the Checklist of North and Middle American Birds, which was released in July 2018. The impact of the AOS 58th Supplement to 59th Supplement taxonomy changes to the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC follows. Changes are first described for the more extensive MD list. [Subsets of the changes, which apply to the DC list, are indicated in brackets.]

Storm-Petrels Moved. The storm-petrels (Wilson's, White-faced, Leach's, and Band-rumped) move up the checklist from after Audubon's Shearwater to now follow Yellow-nosed Albatross. [No impact to the DC list.]

Order of the Kites. The order of the White-tailed and Swallow-tailed Kites swapped. On the MD list, White-tailed Kite now precedes Swallow-tailed Kite. Mississippi Kite moves to follow Bald Eagle. [On the DC list, Bald Eagle and Mississippi Kite now follow Northern Goshawk.]

Placement of Golden Eagle. Golden Eagle moves to now follow the new placement of Swallow-tailed Kite on the MD list. [On the DC list, Golden Eagle now follows Osprey.]

Order and Genus of Downy, Hairy, and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The genus of these three woodpeckers changes from *Picoides* to *Dryobates*. Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker swapped places and now follow Downy Woodpecker, in that order (indicating that Downy and Hairy are not each other's closest genetic ancestors but, rather, their appearance similarities are the result of convergent evolution!)

Placement and Order of Flycatchers. The *Myarchus* and *Tyrannus* flycatchers move up the list, intact. On the MD list, these flycatchers/kingbirds move from after Vermilion Flycatcher to now follow Carolina Parakeet. [On the DC list, the four applicable species (Ash-thoated Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Western Kingbird and Eastern Kingbird) now follow Peregrine Falcon.]

Scientic Name Changes to the *Ammodramus* Sparrows. Baird's and Henslow's Sparrows move from the genus *Ammodramus* to the genus, *Centronyx*. LeConte's, Seaside, Nelson's, and Saltmarsh Sparrows move from the genus *Ammodramus to Ammospiza*.

The scientific species names of Seaside Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sparrow change to *Ammospiza maritima* and *A. caudacuta*, respectively, due to Latin gender agreement. On both the MD and DC lists, Seaside Sparrow moves up the checklist to now follow LeConte's Sparrow. [Baird's Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sparrow are not on the DC list.]

Revised lists and other MD/DCRC web products are being posted to the committee's web pages on the MOS web site. These products and additional information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web page at the following URL: https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

YMOS News Fall 2018

The World Series of Birding/Birdathon

In May, YMOS will once again send teams to the World Series of Birding in Cape May. At present, we are planning on sending at least four teams: two middle school, one high school, and a carbon-free team which will be exclusively foot/pedal powered. As before, all the funds for this event will be generated by the March 16-17 Birdathon where donors will pledge a certain amount for each bird species found that weekend. The money raised goes to registration fees, motel expenses, and equipment for both the May 11 event and the preceding scouting days. We'll be accepting pledges both before and after the event. You may email pledges to Dr. Wayne Bell at wbell2@washcoll.edu.

YMOS Summer Birding Program

Washington College's Center for Environment & Society and YMOS are pleased to announce the Maryland Birds: Ecology & Conservation summer program for 2019. The residential program will run from June 24-27, 2019 and be based out of Washington College in Chestertown, MD. Participants, through intensive field trips to a variety of habitats, will learn to:

- Identify birds by sight and sound.
- Recognize and document breeding bird behavior for atlasing.
- Learn to use technology (e.g., eBird) to access, analyze, and report data.
- Explore career options relating to wildlife.
- Investigate student bird research and conservation activities and opportunities.

The program is open to students entering grades 10 through 12. Previous birding experience is unnecessary if participants have a strong interest in the outdoors and nature. Leaders are Washington College Field Ecologists Maren Gimpel and Dan Small, Dr. Wayne Bell, and YMOS Coordinator George Radcliffe. More information and applications will be available soon. For more information contact Maren Gimpel at mgimpel2@washcoll.edu or visit our website https://www.washcoll.edu/centers/ces/summer-bird-program/

George Radcliffe, YMOS

Toward a Sustainable Future with Birds

The Energy-Conserving and Bird-Safe Buildings Standards Act, also known as the Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019, cross filed as HB 136 and SB 314, seems like a win-win for everyone. Features that are used to reduce solar heat gain, the properties of glass that make it hot in the summer and cold in the winter, are excellent at saving money by reducing excess heating and cooling costs. Better still, those same features also make the building bird-safe because birds can see windows and avoid being tricked by reflection or transparency. In short, these features make a better building.

Recently, an architect, sincere in his efforts to explain how much more sustainable buildings are when these things are considered, suggested in a letter that a glass building otherwise is a "dumb building." He explained why glass is the worst, how his use of exterior light shelves are bird-safe, reduce glare by shielding the window, and send more, not less, natural light further into a room by bouncing it off the ceiling—the very argument in support for all this glass to begin with. He explained that for architects and builders, it typically doesn't matter what it costs to operate a building over its 50 year or more life-cycle, only what it costs to build it. In the age of sustainability that doesn't make sense. We need to be looking at a building's total cost: the cost to build and the cost to operate and maintain, because that is the real cost to us and to our shared environment.

There are several mandates requiring legislators to work to reduce energy consumption, make energy cleaner, and figure out how to take meaningful steps to address climate change. But these are complex problems and even good solutions can have serious negative consequences. For example, conservation partners led by Smart Growth Maryland are battling an ill-conceived plan to clear-cut 240 acres of forest right in the middle of an IBA in Charles County along the Potomac River to construct a solar field. We are set to testify in objection to this plan in favor of the project being placed in a more suitable location. How curious that many people seem to have lost the understanding that trees combat climate change. Sustainable buildings can also help to combat a changing climate, though we have come to understand that sustainability is big business and the lines of authenticity can sometimes be blurred. Despite this we remain hopeful that the more we partner with others to protect nature and the environment for birds, and ultimately ourselves, the more successful we will be.

We have an exciting upcoming opportunity with American Bird Conservancy's Dr. Christine Sheppard and Howard Community College, in the spring, to offer the AIA and LEED Accredited Continuing Education Course for Architects. There is broad interest in this topic and we will be seeking sponsors to help fund this worthy event. One way or another, and with your support, we can keep Maryland beautiful for the birds who need us more than ever before. Safe Skies Maryland

Hail to OUR Birds

and green spaces...

By Marcia Watson

Governor Larry Hogan is proposing a deal whereby Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm would be developed for commercial use. Oxon Cove Park is located in southwestern Prince George's County on the Potomac River, just inside the DC Beltway.

Image Credit: Anthony VanSchoor

Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm Land Swap Deal to Negatively Impact Birds

The Park is currently owned and managed by the National Park Service (NPS). It consists of 512 acres and has been under NPS management since 1959. Oxon Hill Farm, a historic farmstead, is located within the park, and now serves as a working farm and educational exhibit. Oxon Cove Park is located in a densely developed area and specializes in providing nature and outdoor education for young people and families, as well as providing open space for recreation. The park's calendar documents a full set of year-round activities for young people and families (www.nps.gov/oxhi/planyourvisit/calendar.htm). Among other programs, the Park offers a Junior Ranger Program, and partners with the Alice Ferguson Foundation to provide watershed education to students in the 7th through 12th grades. The park works with local schools to provide field trips for children, and the park's website offers detailed curricular materials for teachers.

Over 185 species have been reported on eBird from Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm.

Birds and Habitat at Oxon Cove

Fred and Jane Fallon authored the entry for Oxon Cove Park on MOS's *Maryland-DC Birding Guide* website (www.mdbirdingguide.com). The *Guide* says, in part: "The topography of the park consists of two general zones: an area of broad Potomac River floodplain and a high upward terrace. The upland terrace is cut and divided by several small intermittent drainages that descend to the floodplain. The floodplain is crossed by Oxon Run, a stream that broadens into a shallow estuary of Oxon Cove before joining the Potomac River. Oxon Cove Park offers two trails that allow visitors to walk at their own pace to explore some of the natural features of the park.

"Over 185 species have been reported on eBird from Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm. The waters of Oxon Cove and the Potomac River are good for waterfowl and gulls in winter and for terns in summer. There are breeding Bald Eagles and Ospreys. At the farm field, there may be breeding Eastern Meadowlarks and Grasshopper Sparrows; Bobolinks in migration; and winter sparrows (Savannah, Vesper, White-crowned, American Tree). Up-slope from Oxon Run is a former landfill which may harbor Lincoln's Sparrows in migration. Oxon Cove is a good spot for migrating shorebirds. The hedgerows are good for spring migrant warblers, and the woodland is a good place to find migrant thrushes as well as breeding Wood Thrush and winter-resident Hermit Thrushes. The farm area attracts swallows in the warm months."

Ken Cohen, President of the Prince George's Audubon Society, has pointed out that a number of other species found at the park are on the North America Bird Conservation Initiative's Watch List, that is, birds whose populations are threatened and/or declining. These include Wood Thrush, Red-headed Woodpecker, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Prairie Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Nelson's Sparrow.

Image Credit: Oxon Cove Park entrance sign, courtesy of the National Park Service

Image Credit: Map prepared by Marcia Watson using MERLIN (Maryland's Environmental Resources and Lan Information Network)

The Deal

Initially, news reports In December 2018 indicated that Governor Hogan wanted the State of Maryland to acquire the parkland at Oxon Cove to offer to the Washington Redskins professional football team as a site for a new stadium. But on February 12, 2019, both the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun reported that the Governor has withdrawn his offer to the Redskins because of intense public opposition to the State participating in building a new stadium for the Redskins.

Hogan has admitted that he met with former US Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke (a proponent of environmental rollbacks) to discuss the deal.

The withdrawal of the offer to the Redskins is only half of the current story. The Governor is still pursuing acquiring the parkland, but instead of a football stadium, he envisions some kind of mixed-use commercial development. The Sun quoted Amelia Chasse, spokesperson for the Governor, as saying "However we are moving full steam ahead with acquiring state control of the Maryland Gateway in Prince George's County from the federal government. We believe this site holds significant potential benefits for the region and the state, as does the proposal to expand protected federal parkland in Western Maryland." No details have been revealed for the Governor's current development proposal, but Hogan has been quoted as saying that the site would have "...300 acres to develop around there for entertainment, or restaurants or whatever we decide..." (Maryland Matters).

Under the deal proposed by Governor Hogan, the State of Maryland would acquire Oxon Cove Park from the National Park Service by trading 2,500 acres of state-owned lands near South Mountain, including Gathland State Park, in Western MD. The National Park Service is reportedly interested in the South Mountain property because it contains historic Civil War battlefields. Hogan stated that the Western Maryland property

that he would trade to the National Park Service is "… a property we're not using." In fact, as reported by the Herald Mail, the Western MD property is nearly 2,500 acres that includes South Mountain State Battlefield, Gathland State Park, and surrounding areas, all prime birding territory with extensive natural habitat.

Local citizens are voicing opposition. Many of their concerns center around traffic, but just as many deplore the loss of the open space.

Hogan has admitted that he met with former US Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke (a proponent of environmental rollbacks) to discuss the deal. Hogan signed an agreement with Zinke in September 2017. The agreement has not been made public, and its existence only came to light through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request filed by the Washington Post.

Opposition to the Proposal

Hogan's initial Redskins stadium proposal received criticism from Maryland's Congressional delegation and state and local officials. Mostly, politicians were concerned that Hogan did not discuss the proposal with them before signing an agreement with Zinke. Reaction to the current mixed-use development proposal is growing.

Local citizens have voiced opposition. Many of their concerns center around traffic, but just as many deplore the loss of the open space. Oxon Cove Park lies just across the DC Beltway from the mammoth National Harbor development, which has already brought heavy traffic to the area. One citizen, Erin Frere, who uses the park for family walks, started a public petition to save the park. As of February 18, 2019, Erin's petition had gathered over 900 signatures, and she is aiming for 1,000 or more. Sign the petition below.

MOS's Conservation Committee sent an initial set of letters to Governor Hogan, and other elected officials, to voice opposition to the plan involving the Redskins stadium. MOS will send a second set of letters to oppose the new development plan. The letters will be co-signed by the presidents of MOS, the Patuxent Bird Club, Prince George's Audubon Society, and Southern Maryland Audubon Society. The letters are being sent to multiple elected officials because the issue has implications at the federal, state, and county levels.

What You Can Do

To oppose the conversion of national park land and an environmentally sensitive habitat into a commercial development, here's what to do:

- Sign the petition to save Oxon Cove Park by going to www.change.org/p/larry-hogan-save-oxon-cove-park.
- Tell others about the issue and encourage them to speak out as well.
- Call or write to Governor Hogan, your Congressman and Senators, your state legislators, and, if you live in Prince George's County, your County Council representatives.

The more people elected officials hear from, the more effective the opposition will be.

Further Reading

Baltimore Sun: www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-redskins-swap-20190212-story.html

Washington Post: www.washingtonpost.com/sports/maryland-gov-larry-hogan-informs-redskins-he-is-withdrawing-effort-to-build-new-stadium-at-this-time/2019/02/12/1afa8372-2f35-11e9-86ab-5d02109aeb01_story.html?utm_term=.d400058e527d

Capital Gazette: www.capitalgazette.com/sports/pro_sports/bs-md-hogan-redskins-20181211-story.html

Herald Mail: www.heraldmailmedia.com/news/local/updated-proposed-land-swap-tied-to-redskins-stadium-would-affect/article_d6e9b5ee-87af-544e-9dec-f62ed3ea1de8.html

Maryland Matters:

www.marylandmatters.org/2018/12/12/governor-stadium-site-would-be-part-of-land-swap-with-feds/

www.marylandmatters.org/2018/12/10/hogans-play-to-keep-redskins-surprises-fellow-officials/

State of the Birds:

www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/resources/species-assessments/

Any member is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Do you have a perspective that you would like to share with the birding community? We would like to hear from you. Email the editor at: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org.

Place Your Announcement in *The Yellowthroat*

Reach members interested in your bird-related services by placing an announcement in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. For more information contact the Editor:
yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Barnacle Geese in Maryland

The Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) is a rare winter vagrant to Maryland, with nine accepted records up to 2015:

It should be noted that there are several other sightings of this species that are not on the above list of accepted records, including some of birds whose origin was questionable.

The uptick in records in Maryland since year 2000 is part of a wider trend of increased vagrancy in the USA and Canada, at a time when the Greenland breeding population has been increasing rapidly (Waterfowl & Wetlands Trust 2018). There have thus far been two records in the winter of 2018/19, both of them county firsts, in Baltimore and Frederick counties. Both birds were associating with flocks of Canada Geese. Tim Carney found the first of these at Friendly Farm, Baltimore County, on Dec. 5, 2018. It was seen by several observers over the next three days, and again on Dec. 14 and 15. Andy Wilson found the Frederick County bird at Lake Whittier on Jan. 11, and it was seen by many observers either at the lake or in nearby fields for the following three days.

Figure 1. Sketches of the head pattern of the Barnacle Geese in Baltimore County, Dec. 5-12, 2018 (left) and Frederick County, Jan. 11-14, 2019 (right). Sketches based on photos by Kathy Calvert (photo: ML132430851 in Macauley Library) and Andy Wilson (ML134473971). Sketch by Andy Wilson.

Start date	End date	Location	County
Late Dec. 1965		Chesapeake Farms, Chestertown	Kent
10/13/1986	10/13/1986	Fruitland	Wicomico
2/6/2000	2/14/2000	Jesterville	Wicomico
2/10/2002	2/10/2002	Oxon Hill/ Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge	Prince George's
10/15/2005	10/16/2005	Chestertown/Great Oak	Kent
1/19/2006	1/19/2006	Chestertown/Great Oak	Kent
1/9/2012	1/18/2012	Chestertown/Chester River	Kent
12/19/2013	12/29/2013	Havre de Grace/Swan Harbor (two birds)	Harford
2/1/2015	2/1/2015	Fallston	Harford

Source: MD/DCRC Database Abridged Version. 21 June 2018.

Intriguingly, examination of the many photos of these two birds (Macauley Library, via eBird) suggests that they were likely the same individual. The most distinctive plumage feature of both these birds was that the black crown was diffusely connected to the limited area of black feathering around the eye. Comparative sketches from photos of the Baltimore County and Frederick County birds shows the similarities in the head pattern (Figure 1). Patterning on the head of Barnacle Geese is variable, but this particular pattern does not appear to be common; most birds have a clean white brow separating the eye from the black crown. Both birds also showed relatively extensive black feathering around the bill (Figure 1). Another plumage feature that appears to be variable is the density of mid-gray barring on the pale-gray flanks. Both the Friendly Farm and Whittier birds had restricted dark barring at the front of the flanks and at the rear — three or four dark bars in each case. While the congruence of these plumage features isn't sufficient to say with absolute certainty that these two birds were the one individual, we believe that it is highly likely that this was the case.

The profusion of affordable superzoom cameras has resulted in most chaseable rare birds being very well-photographed which, coupled with the open access of photos uploaded to the Macauley Library via eBird, means close scrutiny of plumage details is possible for many rarities. The potential for birders to sleuth these online resources to track the movement of vagrants provides an exciting new way to increase our understanding of vagrancy patterns of rare birds.

Andy Wilson, Frederick

Tim Carney, Baltimore

References: The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (2018). International Census of Greenland Barnacle Geese. https://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/abundance/icgbg/ Accessed 1/27/2019

See page 16 for a photo of the Barnacle Goose in Frederick, Maryland by Andy Wilson.

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

CHAPTER CHATTER

by Jean Wheeler

Peru Eco-trip

My wife *Carol Swan* and I explored several Peruvian eco-systems, each with excellent bird/naturalist guides from August 22 to September 9, 2018.

Our trip began in Lima where Pepe Rojas, a local birding expert, led us to explore Pacific coastal areas and a UNESCO designated world heritage wetland reserve. Taking a boat out to the Palomino Islands, we observed colonies of 2,000 southern sea lions along with many sea birds. Some notable birds seen on this part of the trip to the coastal areas with the Atacama Desert hard against the Pacific, included the endemic Surf Cinclodes, Inca Tern, Many-colored Rush Tyrant, Amazilia Hummingbird, Humboldt Penguin, Peruvian Booby (we have now seen all six of the world's boobies), Peruvian Thick-knee, Plumbeous Rail, Red-legged and Guanay Cormorants, and Gray-hooded, Franklin's, Belcher's, and Kelp Gulls.

Hoatzin. Image Credit: Carol Swan.

Venturing up the western slope of the Andes for two days and birding along the scary, windy road up to 14,000 feet we saw these endemics: Rufous-breasted Warbler-Finch, Great Inca-Finch, Rusty-bellied Brush-Finch, Rusty-crowned Tit-Spinetail, White-bellied Cinclodes, Black-necked Woodpecker, and Black Metaltail (Hummingbird). Also seen were Giant Hummingbirds, Puna Tinamou, Torrent and Andean (crested) Ducks, White-capped Dipper, Diademed Sandpiper Plover, and Rufous-bellied Seed Snipe to name a few. We also had a great view of an Andean Fox and later a Mountain Viscacha.

We had some altitude sickness but the oxygen provided, helped a lot.

After being in some snow and ice in the Andes, we found ourselves in the heat and humidity of Peruvian Amazonia out of Iquitos. The Amazon begins its 2,300-mile journey to the Atlantic in Peru. We were on the Amazon and several of its formative rivers staying at jungle lodges for five nights. We had two private guides for the this leg of the trip with **Explorama Lodges**. Next we boarded a fancy boat, The Zafiro, for the last seven nights, joining 30 other travelers, with **International Expeditions.** Staying in lodges and then the boat trip, allowed us to explore the Amazon both downstream and upstream from Iquitos.

Besides small boat rides every day (one for six hours of exploration), we did night and day walks in the jungle looking for birds and other critters and learning of the Amazon's amazing biodiversity and people. We saw six species of monkeys including the Pygmy Marmoset and Owl Monkey, and cool snakes including a large red-tailed boa. We also saw a huge bird-eating tarantula, seven species of frogs, pink (and gray) river dolphins, spectacled caimans, and three-toed sloths. We caught piranha and also visited remote tribal villages and met with a shaman.

Birds seen included the amazing Hoatzin (40 in one tree), Horned Screamer, Capped Heron (my wife's favorite heron/egret), Sungrebe, 3 species of Macaw, 8 species of parrots, and 7 species of parakeets including thousands of Canary-winged Parakeets flying into their night roosts. Email gwwabc@comcast.net for further information on the trip. *Gerald Winegrad.*

CAROLINE COUNTY

The Caroline County Bird Club was selected as the winner of the 2018 Big Sit! Golden Bird Prize from Swarovski Optik. The award was a $500 check from Swarovski to put toward the conservation project/program of the Club's choice.

The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest. The Big Sit! is like a Big Day or a bird-a-thon in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within 24 hours within an area 17 feet in diameter. Bird Club members are stationed there from dusk to sunset tallying as many bird species that can be seen or heard. Caroline County Bird Club's 2018 Big Sit! was held at the Adkins Arboretum's Wetlands Overlook near the Visitors Center.

The Golden Bird species (chosen at random from among all

species seen by U.S. Big Sit teams) was the Black-and-white Warbler. All circles in the U.S. that saw the Black-and-white Warbler were entered into a hat at the winter meeting of the New Haven Bird Club in Connecticut (owners of the Big Sit! trademark). *Debby Bennett*

Inca Tern. Image Credit: Carol Swan.

HARFORD COUNTY

One small step for the internet…One giant leap for the Harford Bird Club!

Harford Bird Club has a new website! Our goal was a modern, easy to navigate page that would share our love for birds with the World Wide Web. With the help of Chandler Robbin's bequest to the chapter, we were able to meet this goal.

The all new Harford Bird Club website is now live and available to the general public. Feel free to use it as a reference, share it with your friends and return often to find out what's happening with the club.The most up to date Harford County Checklist is available, you can pay your dues with a link to the MOS site and an interactive hot spot map links you directly to the most recent eBird lists for that location. Photographs on the website were donated by Joe Subolefsky and Scott Moody. Many hours of time went into resizing the photos to optimize them for website use and still maintain the clarity and crispness of the photograph. Scott Moody of Labrador Designs (http://labradordesign.com/index.php/who-we-are/) poured his heart into giving us the best possible site. He drastically discounted his rates to work within our budget and meet our goals. Many thanks to everyone who gave feedback along the way, sent links to sites that had features we should mirror and crafted content for the site. www.harfordbirdclub.org

Amanda Subolefsky

5th Annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Thirty-five enthusiastic birders (ages 4-adult) braved the chilly temperatures on January 12th for Harford Bird Club's 5th Annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids at Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF/ Swan Harbor Farm). We documented 37 species, with highlights including a Merlin, Northern Harrier, White-crowned Sparrow and more!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and MAEF for hosting! *Rachel Ort*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Stella Tea writes, "Last October, an opportunity took me back to my birthplace - Hong Kong - for 12 days. My travel companion doesn't like birds (gasp!), and I negotiated enough time to visit three hotspots on my own. First, I joined volunteers from the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society on their weekly bird walk in Hong Kong Park. The most notable birds were the resident Yellow-crested Cockatoos. Second, I participated in a mangrove boardwalk tour at the Mai Po Nature Reserve where my group saw over 40 species including the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill. Third, I visited the Hong Kong Wetland Park and met some generous birders and photographers. I was delighted by Siberian Stonechat and Pied Kingfisher among other lifers. Overall, I saw over 55 species and brought home a copy of *The Birds of Hong Kong and South China* by Clive Viney, Karen Phillipps and Lam Chiu Ying. I gave the book to my young birder son. One day, I hope we will visit Hong Kong together and have a proper, epic birding trip."

Chris Wright

Books

Gulls of the World: A Photographic Guide
Klaus Malling Olsen
Hardcover
488 pages
April 2018
Princeton University Press

$45.00

Got gulls? One of the most frustrating terms I hear as a birding educator is "sea gull." The term bespeaks the familiarity of gulls. It also gives voice to a general avoidance of gull identification. This beautifully illustrated book is a great step toward splitting "sea gull" into some 61 species, give or take.

Why is such a familiar group of birds seemingly avoided by so many birders? After all, gulls are large and generally abundant at places we frequent. They are not shy — bold enough to accept handouts from children and to steal bait from fishermen. While not especially colorful, they sport bold patterns of black, white, and gray. Would that our warblers shared some of these features!

Malling Olsen's introductory chapter provides some insights into the problem with gulls. There are two-year gulls, three-year gulls, and four-year gulls, the terms referring to the time it takes to reach adulthood. Except perhaps for the two-year gulls, most of which are smaller and sport dark heads as adults, the interim years include a bewildering array of streaky plumages that are a definite turnoff to the uninitiated. It may require more than a four-year birder to appreciate the nuances of molt sequences and seasonal plumages in the life of a large gull. Then there is individual variation that can be extreme enough to confuse even seasoned taxonomists; the Herring/Iceland Gull complex is one example (is there *really* a Kumlien's Gull or not?). Finally, some gulls just don't understand that a biological species is supposed to be reproductively isolated from other biological species. Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls are the best (or worst) example, with perhaps 75% of the populations of Washington and Oregon being hybrids. Maybe the problem with gulls is all of the above. Or maybe it's just that, to many of us, gulls just aren't as cute as warblers.

No matter. There are 600 magnificent color photographs in this book that address the issue. One could start by just looking at the adults of species familiar (Herring Gull, Laughing Gull), less so (Audouin's Gull, Kelp Gull), or intriguingly unfamiliar (Dolphin Gull, Heuglin's Gull). Each species description includes many photos and a range map showing the itinerant birder what might be found at destinations near and far. The devil still remains in the details, and Malling Olsen provides plenty of those by describing plumage sequences, geographic variation, and possible hybridization. These details are daunting, but it is still possible to identify an adult gull using only the photos, maps, and brief summary of field marks and "jizz."

Birders should be aware of the author's European perspective on taxonomy. He splits "our" Herring Gull complex into several species, including Herring Gull (European), American Herring Gull, and Vega Gull. Thayer's Gull is also a separate species, not a race of Iceland Gull as currently viewed on this side of the Atlantic. In time, these may become arm chair additions to our North American life lists so their treatment as species here is a plus.

The only frustration I found was the lack of the species under consideration appearing in the header of each page. At best, the left header gives the genus; the right header always says, "Gulls." No kidding? The genus header would be useful except that 31 of the 61 species are *Larus* and few birders will recognize that *Ichthyaetus* includes Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, and eight other species. As each description takes several pages of text and photos, the reader must thumb back to the beginning of an entry to see just which species is being, well, detailed.

This book is likely to pique, and maybe even satisfy, one's curiosity about the gulls of the world. It is a beautiful and thorough introduction to this under-appreciated group of birds. If you were to add it to your birding library, it is likely that "sea gulls" will never be the same.

Wayne Bell
Talbot County Chapter

Sugarloaf Count Summary

The 34th Sugarloaf Mountain Christmas Bird Count took place on Dec. 30, 2018. The count yielded an above-average 93 species (plus a Count Week bird), including one species new to our cumulative list: an Osprey seen north of Buckeystown. The 68 participants enjoyed decent weather for a change, free from snow, ice, fog, wind, rain, or frigid temperatures.

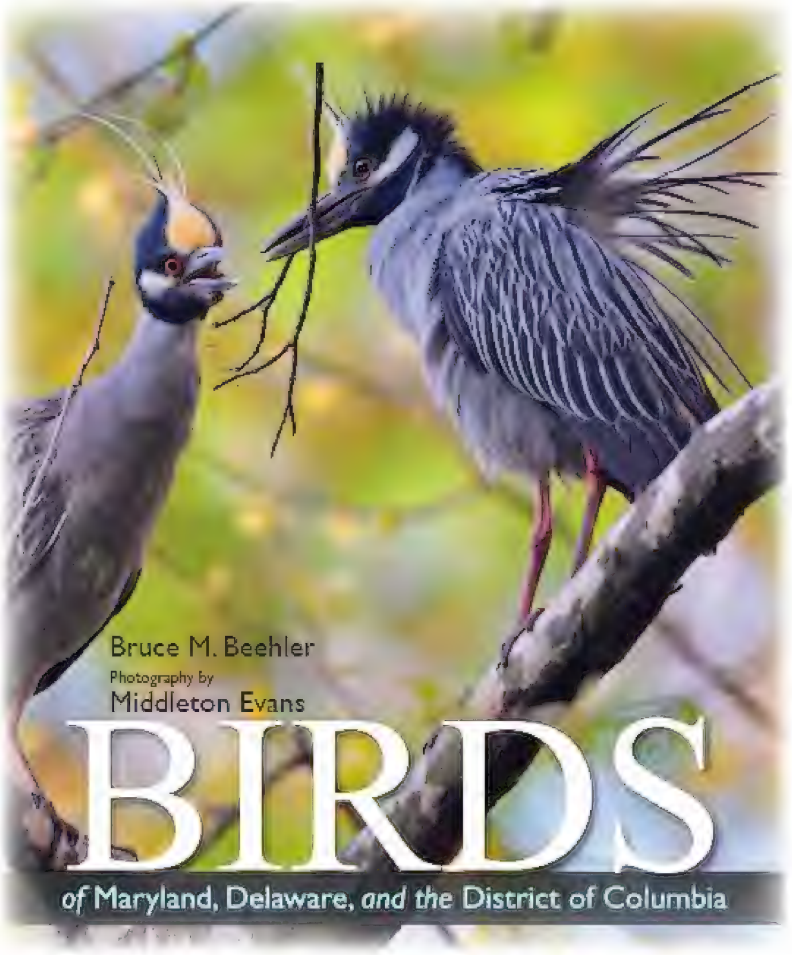
Wood Duck, Merlin, and Common Raven hit new highs, and Fish Crow numbers were *triple* the previous record high. Hairy Woodpeckers were nearly at a record, and Carolina Wren tallies were the second highest in a decade.

In addition to the Osprey, other good birds included American Woodcock (the first in 10 years), Palm Warbler (the first on count day in 21 years), and Pine Warbler (only the second time reported).

Several other species fell to record lows, however, including Carolina Chickadee (barely above half the previous record low) and Tufted Titmouse. Record low tallies were also noted for Horned Lark, American Tree Sparrow, and House Finch. Cooper's Hawk tied its previous low, and gulls were quite scarce too. The overall number of individual birds was below average, although not alarmingly so.

Thanks to everyone who participated and made this count a success! The next Sugarloaf CBC will be held on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019. Hope to see you all then.

Janet Millenson, Compiler



Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia

Bruce M. Beehler

Photography by Middleton Evans

Exploring backyard birds, birds of prey, and birds of the open ocean, Smithsonian ornithologist Bruce Beehler and premier nature photographer Middleton Evans have crafted a comprehensive volume unparalleled in its beauty and captivating storytelling.

Beehler offers practical advice on bird-watching, including how to find, attract, and even garden for birds, as well as the best places to see them in season. He also discusses the best birding apps, websites, and gear; provides advice on planning a birding field trip; and recommends ornithological institutions that will help you cultivate a lifelong birding hobby. In another section, Beehler challenges the reader to think about conservation efforts to preserve local bird populations.

Perhaps most important to beginning and expert birders, the book includes general accounts about all the bird groups as well as illustrated thumbnail accounts for every bird species recorded from the Region. The book ends with a section treating all the best birding localities. With striking color photographs of more than 400 species, this book is a bonanza for nature lovers. A wealth of images immerses the reader in the world of these wonderful creatures.

Book Launch Events

Sunday, 24 March 2019, 2-4 PM, Vollmer Center, Cylburn Park, Baltimore, MD. Official Book Launch for *Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia*. Hosted by MOS, Baltimore Bird Club, Cylburn Park, and Johns Hopkins University Press. Celebrating the arrival of the book, with book-signing and sales. For details, visit the MOS Website: (https://mdbirds.org).

Sunday, 14 April 2019, 3-5 PM. Book Party and Book-Signing at home of Sharon and Adrian Forsyth, 3233 Aberfoyle Place, Washington, DC 20015. Hosted by the MOS, Audubon Naturalist Society, and others. All invited. Those wishing to attend please email: BookPartyApril14th@gmail.com to let us know how many in your part and a guess at how many books that you might purchase (to help us with planning the event).

MARYLAND BIRDS: ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

A summer program for students entering grades 10-12

JUNE 24-27, 2019
Based at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland

The $750.00 cost covers lodging, meals, and local transportation.

Deadline for applications is April 15, 2019.

TO APPLY: Visit our website: https://www.washcoll.edu/centers/ces/summer-bird-program/

For more information, contact Maren Gimpel at mgimpel2@washcoll.edu

MEMBER PHOTOS

Howard Bird Club member, Anthony VanSchoor photographed a Short-eared Owl (top) in Dorchester County this winter.

Frederick Bird Club member, Andrew Wilson, spotted and photographed Frederick County's first Barnacle Goose (right) at Whittier Lake. Read more about the sighting on page 11.

MEMBER PHOTOS

Longtime MOS member Paul Nistico photographed an American Woodcock (top) while visiting Magee Marsh.

Montgomery Bird Club member, Scott Stafford, photographed a Snowy Owl (left) on Kent Island in January.

Member-at-large Steve Sheffield captured a Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs (bottom) together during the Crisfield Christmas Bird Count in Somerset County.

CALENDAR

BIRDING

3/2/2019	6 – 8 PM	Woodcock Walk at Morgan Run	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Allan McQuarrie at 410-552-1278 if you plan to attend. Description: Come strain your eyes and ears to appreciate these curious birds as they perform their annual courting ritual. They never let us down! Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Lane.
3/2/2019		Field Trip to Black Hill Reservoir	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact leader David Smith, 410-549-7082, for meeting time and location. Description: Bald Eagles and over-wintering waterfowl.
3/2/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
3/2/2019	8 AM – 4 PM	Ocean City Birding	Host: YMOS. Contact George Radcliffe, radcliffg@gmail.com. Description: Meet at Ocean City Inlet at 8 AM for coastal birds; we'll also bird inland ponds for ducks and Assateague Island for wintering birds.
3/3/2019	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat. We will be looking for Fox Sparrows and other winter residents. Meet at top parking lot past the sports fields.
3/3/2019	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Paper Mill Flats	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com, Description: A rare opportunity to hike on a private property in Severna Park. The last time we hiked there we had a European gold finch! Contact leader for directions to property and parking information.
3/3/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, richard@rrrrpeters.org. Description: Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at W end parking lot.
3/3/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip to Chesapeake Farms.	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders. Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Wintering waterfowl, raptors (notably eagles), White-crowned and other sparrows. Bring snacks. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
3/3/2019	All day	Birding From a Fishing Boat Off Tilghman	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Coordinated by Jan Reese 410-745-2875 or reesejan@gmail.com. Description: A local captain has agreed to take a small group of TBC members on a fishing boat out into the Chesapeake. Leaving from Knapps Narrows Marina. There will be a sign-up announced in January and a fee of approximately $40.
3/3/2019	4:30 – 8 PM	Birding at Pickering Creek	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Ron Ketter, 410-820-6165 or rgketter@gmail.com. Description: Early March is peak time for hearing and possibly seeing the elusive "timber doodle" (or American Woodcock to most of us). Depart Easton Acme parking lot 4:30 PM or meet at Pickering Creek parking lot 5 PM
3/5/2019	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Perryville Community Park	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net. Description: A half-day of seeking out lingering winter waterfowl at Perryville Community Park, and along the Susquehanna River. Dress for extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Meet at the parking area near the broken-down Pavilion just before reaching the one-way circle.
3/6/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort HcHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769. Alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Meet outside of park front gates, and park at lot on left hand side.
3/6/2019	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Timberdoodle Hunt	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Elaine Beery, ehbeery@yahoo.com or 410-272-6037 and Dave Larkin, dlarkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319. Description: Meet at the I-95/155 P&R. From there the guides will lead this evening's trip to a well-known site for Woodcocks, one of our most interesting and elusive birds.
3/6/2019	4:30 – 6 PM	Late Afternoon Bird Walk	Host: Montgomery Bird Club and ANS. For more info call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036. Description: We'll be checking out the Potomac River for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Next stop will be Hughes Hollow, part of McKee-Beshers WMA. We'll then finish with American Woodcock display if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations are not required - all are welcome. Meet at 4:30 PM at Riley's Lock.
3/7/2019	11 AM – 1 PM	Behind the Scenes Tour of the Smithsonian's Feather Lab	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join James Whatton for a behind the scenes tour of the feather lab at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Trip is limited to 15 participants. Must register by February 28. Meet at 9 AM at Parole P&R.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

3/7/2019	3 – 5 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
3/9/2019	8:15 AM – 12 PM	Birding the C&O Canal at Little Orleans	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact leader Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: We'll look for early migrating birds and winter residents along the canal. Waterfowl and Bald Eagles may be seen at several overlooks of the Potomac River. Meet at the C&O Canal at Little Orleans at 9 AM. Car pool from the P&R at Ali Ghan Rd and Christie Rd, exit 46 off I-68 at 8:15 AM.
3/9/19	9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Birding Basics	Host: Howard County Conservancy. Call 410-465-8877. Description: Join members of the Howard County Bird Club as they present basic information to get you started in the wonderful world of birding. Topics will include the history of birding; birding ethics; equipment; how to identify birds; use of eBird and other resources available to help you build on your birding skills. This classroom presentation will be followed by an optional guided bird walk at a later date open only to class participants. Must be 12 or older to attend. Children between 12 and 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Rain or Shine.
3/9/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Jug Bay	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For more info, contact leader Clive Harris at clivegharris@yahoo.com. Description: Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, winter and early spring songbirds. Ospreys displaying. Meet at 8 AM at parking lot by park hdqtrs. Wear muddy conditions footgear. Registration required (15-person limit); register online at ANShome.org/adults.
3/9/2019	8 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Somerset County	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For more information, contact trip leader Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: Trip will include Deal Island WMA and Fairmount WMA, for winter marsh residents. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or parking area near the Exxon Station (across from McDonald's) in Princess Anne at 8 AM. Bring drinks, lunch and snacks.
3/10/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Dotty Doherty, 443-926-3054 or dottyholcombdoherty@gmail.com. Description: Birders will enjoy trails winding through forests and past grassy fields on a paved path. $6 charge if you don't have a county park sticker. Meet in the parking lot by the Blue Heron Center.
3/10/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410 686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
3/10/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Loch Raven	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader is Dave Larkin, dlarkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319. Description: Enjoy the rich habitat of Baltimore's premier watershed for wintering migrant songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Meet at the P&R on Rt 152 just N of Rt 147 near Fallston.
3/10/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leader Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com. Description: Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at W end parking lot.
3/10/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Talbot County Wastewater Treatment Plant.	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leaders Paul & Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657 or pdthut@gmail.com. Description: Expect plenty of Canada Geese with opportunities for rare waterfowl on the impoundments as well as sparrows, larks and raptors in the immediate vicinity. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast hosts Bettye and Fred Maki, 7448 Jeffreys Way, Easton, 248 225-0724.
3/12/19	4:30 – 6 PM	Late Afternoon Bird Walk	Host: Montgomery Bird Club and ANS. For more info call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036. Description: We'll be checking out the Potomac River for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Next stop will be Hughes Hollow, part of McKee-Beshers WMA. We'll then finish with American Woodcock display if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations are not required - all are welcome. Meet at 4:30 pm at Riley's Lock.
3/14/19	4:30 – 6 PM	Late Afternoon Bird Walk	Host: Montgomery Bird Club and ANS. For more info call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036. Description: We'll be checking out the Potomac River for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Next stop will be Hughes Hollow, part of McKee-Beshers WMA. Potential highlights here include early Tree Swallows, calling Pied-billed Grebes and Wood Ducks and other waterfowl flying into roost. We'll then finish with American Woodcock display if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations are not required - all are welcome. Meet at 4:30 pm at Riley's Lock.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

BIRDING

3/16/19	9 – 11 AM	Birding at Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Julie Lasher, 301-643-6496 or JuliaAlys@hotmail.com. Description: The preserve has 200 acres of wetlands and wood areas and is home to a variety of waterfowl. Prepare to hike on primitive trails. In case of heavy rainstorm or severe weather the trip will be canceled. Jay Sheppard and Marcy Stutzman will be guides.
3/16/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Meet at 3001 East Dr to start the walk.
3/16/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, 410-370-0747. Alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443 204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side.
3/16/19	9 – 11 A,	Bird Walk at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary	Host: Audubon Society of Central MD. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071. Description: Bi-monthly naturalist-led walk.
3/16/19		Woodcock Outing	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Leader Kathy Calvert (301-810-5677). Description: Time and place TBD.
3/16/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Governor Bridge	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
3/16/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding in Oxford and Environs	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Tom Corl, 202-215-1684 or tom.corl@gmail.com. Description: Explore the Oxford Natural Area for sparrows and meadowlarks. Land birding, especially fields outside of town that sometimes yield bird such as Horned Lark and Pipits. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet the leader at 7:20 AM at the Town Park in Oxford, across from the Town Hall. Breakfast at The Social Cafe at 102 South Morris St.
03/16-17/19	All day	Maryland Youth Birdathon	Host: YMOS. Contact George Radcliffe, radcliffg@gmail.com. Description: Fund Raising for the World Series of Birding Teams. Searching for remaining wintering birds and early migrants, owls and rails. The group will begin in Ocean City at 5 AM Saturday morning and end up in Dorchester County by evening. The search will resume Sunday morning in Dorchester and conclude by the Bay Bridge late Sunday afternoon. Lodging will be available Friday and Saturday nights in Dorchester County. Students will need money for meals. Logistics and specific times will be coordinated once we know who is going. Participants can come either or both days.
3/17/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com or 410-292-9549. Description: This park has variety of habitats including fields, stream-side woods and hillside forest. Expect a variety of sparrows, migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
3/17/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com. Description: Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected, woodland trails for passerines.. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at W end parking lot.
3/21/19	3 – 5 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
3/23/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding Rocky Gap, Mason Road Pond and the Canal	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact leader Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: First stop will be the Rocky Gap SP Beach area. We will travel to several spots at Rocky Gap for waterfowl before moving on to Mason Rd Pond and the C & O Canal Terminus. Meet to carpool at the NRP office, 12512 Pleasant Valley Rd.
3/23/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in Southeast Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

3/23/19	All Day	Blackwater and Beyond	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Trip leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com or 410-996-5267. Description: This trip is designed to see large numbers of waterfowl during the height of spring staging season. Bald Eagles are a bonus feature. Ospreys may be newly arrived and if so, will be setting up territories. Some early shorebirds might be on the move. Bring breakfast, lunch and snacks. Dress for possible extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Some easy walking on level ground. Meet at the parking lot of Blackwater at 9 AM. To carpool, meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton, at 6 AM.
3/24/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club. Leaders Karen and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 or KJHeff122@gmail.com. Description: Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at W end parking lot.
3/24/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding Around Choptank	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009 or vdesanctis@verizon.net. Description: Views over the Choptank River can be rewarding in early spring for waterfowl and unusual gulls. Will visit Poplar Neck Marsh for marsh birds and sparrows. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
3/26/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator: Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: First in a series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
3/28/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding Ft. Smallwood Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Matt Grey, 410-533-8915 or mattgrey7575@gmail.com. Description: Join Ranger Matt Grey for a walk through Ft. Smallwood Park. We should still have ducks on the Patapsco River and bay as well as migrating hawks. The areas around the marsh can be wet so wear appropriate hiking boots.
3/30/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Gull and Waterfowl Search at Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dennis Kirkwood, newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905. Description: Morning scan of the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species. Little Gull and Black-headed Gull are possible. Meet at the Lapidum Boat Launch.
3/30/19	All day	Birding at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders. Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: We will search the fields, waters and woods for songbirds including sparrows and kinglets, and water birds including waterfowl, herons, and possibly gannets. Full day, bring lunch. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
3/30/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Mill Creek Sanctuary Trip	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Coordinators Jan Reese, 410-745-2875 or reesejan@gmail.com and Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com. Description: An Introduction to Mill Creek Sanctuary near Wye Mills, maintained by Talbot Bird Club on behalf of MOS. An introduction and work day will allow members a first hand look at this property. It may be possible to upgrade and repair some of the facilities at the property (foot bridges, shelter, parking lots, etc.) so bringing tools may be recommended.
3/31/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Little Gull Chase	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Reserve your spot with leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Every March a few Little Gulls appear on Back River in large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. We will search for them at Cox's Point Park, Diamond Point Rd and other likely spots. Trip limited to 12. Meet at Cox's Point Park in Essex.
3/31/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org. Description: Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. Meet at W end parking lot.
3/31/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Seasons at South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For further information, contact the leader, Ken Cohen, at kvulture@aol.com. Description: One of a series of walks to explore the seasonal variations in bird use of the habitats at South Tract. Target species include early migrating songbirds and maybe some lingering waterfowl. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Meet in the parking lot of the Visitor Center off Powder Mill Rd.; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered solar recharging station for electric vehicles.
3/31/19	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding Around Kent Island	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Co-leaders Daniel and Jonathon Irons. Description: Trip will include locations on Kent Island selected by leaders. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM or meet leaders at the CBEC parking lot at 7:30 AM.
4/2/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator: Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).

BIRDING

4/3/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort HcHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Meet outside of park front gates, and park at lot on left hand side.
4/4/2019	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
4/6/2019	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Garrett County Ponds	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact leader Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: We'll visit Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Little Meadows Lake and Campground and New Germany SP (if time permits). Pack a lunch for a picnic at New Germany. Meet at Finzel Swamp at 9:30 AM. Carpool from Parkside School in LaVale at 9 AM.
4/6/2019		Trip to North Point SP and Black Marsh	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact leader Kathy Calvert (301-810-5677) for meeting time and location. Description: Explore two beautiful adjacent sites on the Chesapeake Bay. Black Marsh is a wild and natural Nature Conservancy property.
4/6/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding the Ma and Pa Trail	Host: Harford Bird Club. Susan Hood, susanjhood@comcast.net or 410-937-7552, is leading the walk. Description: Explore this popular trail, walking from Annie's Playground to Tollgate Road and back. Field, forest, marsh and water habitats bring a variety of birdlife to this spot. Meet at the playground parking lot on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston at 7:30 AM.
4/6/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Alpha Ridge Landfill	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com of 410-772-8424. Description: Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. Vesper sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels and other open country birds expected. Rarities possible. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park. Reservations and carpooling required.
4/6/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
4/7/2019	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat. We will be looking for Fox Sparrows and other winter residents. Meet at top parking lot past the sports fields.
4/7/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Sharps at Waterford Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197. Description: Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads and paths on this working farm. Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, Cattail Creek and floodplain, three ponds and five shallow waterfowl impoundments make for diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear required for part of walk. Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right.
4/7/2019	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Contact leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240 515-4517. Description: We will explore the wetlands of Hughes Hollow and Sycamore Landing. Species to be expected include Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, and many other marsh dwellers. A chance for several warblers including Prothonotary. Meet at Hughes Hollow parking lot at 7 AM. Reservations are not required, but please contact the leader if you are planning to come so he can provide additional information before the trip.
4/7/2019	7 AM – 12 PM	Urban Birding	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Terry Allen, 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com. Description: We will again (our 11th year) bird the variety of habitats around the Target Shopping Center and the newly developed shopping areas nearby in search of early spring migrants. We will scan fields, open water, tidal guts, wood margins and hedgerows for early arriving migrants as well as wintering birds. Meet in Easton Target parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast hosts Gadis and Richard Pollard, 8900 Thornton Rd, Royal Oak. Gadis 240-543-0599, Richard 240-543-0596.
4/9/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator: Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
4/11/19	8 AM – 11 AM	Birding at North Point SP	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: We will cover the Black Marsh Trail and the waterfront as well as other trails if time permits. Possible to see rails, herons and even bitterns as well as migrating shorebirds. Waterproof boots as marsh can be soggy. Entrance fee $4 without a state park pass.

Questions? Contact the calendar editor: calendar@mdbirds.org

4/6-7/19	All day	Work Weekend at Irish Grove Sanctuary	Host: Irish Grove Sanctuary. If you plan to attend or have questions, please contact Dotty Mumford at dottymum@comcast.net or 443-214-5154. Description: Join us for a weekend full of projects, camaraderie and birding. We plan to complete the rehab on the pole barn, improve the trails and tidy up the house. Some meals will be provided and you can stay for free at the house or pitch your tent in the yard. Indoor space is limited.
4/13/19	9 – 11 AM	Birding at Masonville Cove	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Graham Floyd, 503-705-8046 or spcgraham.floyd@gmail.com. Description: Over 54 acres of wetlands, nature trails and bird sanctuary, this is an ideal spot for passerines, as well as shore birds, water fowl, and hawks.
4/13/19	7:30 – 11 AM	Breakfast With the Birds at Masonville Cove	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. RSVP to leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Masonville Cove in Baltimore City welcomes BBC for donuts and coffee and a look at waterfowl in Baltimore Harbor. Land birding is also good. We will visit both the area immediately behind the Nature Center and Access Area 2. Then we'll drive to Middle Branch Park, another good spot for water birds. Telescopes useful.
4/13/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding Liberty Watershed	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact the Harveys at 410-795-3117.Description: Liberty Watershed off Bollinger Mill Road in Eldersburg is a good spot for warblers and possibly waterfowl. Moderate hiking which, depending on the weather could be a little muddy.
4/13/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Emory Knoll Farm	Host: Harford Bird Club. Contact leader Carey Rowsom, crowsom@greenroofplants.com or 410-452-5880, for further information. Description: There should be plenty of warblers and other spring migrants as well as resident species in bright spring plumage. Parking is limited so carpooling is strongly encouraged. There is a P&R nearby at the end of Rt 543 where it meets Rt 165.
4/13/19	All day	Field Trip to Prime Hook NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders. Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Spring birding for late waterfowl, herons, early shorebirds including Avocets and Stilts, and songbirds. Full day, bring lunch. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
4/13/19	7 AM – 6 PM	Early Migrant Search on the Lower Eastern Shore	Host: YMOS. Contact George Radcliffe, radcliffg@gmail.com. Description: Birding on the Lower Eastern Shore looking for early migrants. Meet the group in Cambridge at the Visitor's Center at 7 AM; return to Cambridge by 6 PM. We'll bird Nassawango Creek, Elliott Island Rd, and Blackwater NWR
4/14/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Pat & Juanita Tate, 410-615-5133 or jpt@earthlink.com. Description: Birders will enjoy trails winding through forests and past grassy fields on a paved path. $6 charge if you don't have a county park sticker. Meet in the parking lot by the Blue Heron Center.
4/14/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
4/14/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Cleanup at Wheaton Regional Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Please sign up by emailing the organizer, Evelyn Ralston, evelynralston@icloud.com. Description: Wheaton Regional Park hosts amazing birds during migration and a nice assortment of resident birds most of the year. It's also a popular place for picnics, children birthday parties and fishing. The flip side of its popularity is a steady increase in trash. Last year we were surprised by the amount of stuff collected during our clean-up. Let's repeat and make the place better, for the birds, the birders and all visitors. Meet at the Shorefield parking lot, near the carousel, at 7:30 AM for a pre-cleanup birdwalk or at 9 AM for the clean-up. Bags, gloves, and grabbers will be provided. Rubber boots recommended. We'll finish before noon. Number of participants unlimited, the more the better, but
4/14/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding the Nutter's Neck Region	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com. Description: Expect early migrants and possibly late migrating waterfowl and sparrows along the southeastern shores of the Nanticoke River. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.
4/16/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator: Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
4/18/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
4/19/19	8 A,M – 12 PM	Birding at Mills Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Anna Hutzell at amp8185@aol.com or 301-797-8454. Description: One in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. Meet at the Mills Park pavilion.
4/20/19	7 – 10 AM	Birding the Bacon Ridge Trail	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: A great opportunity to hike with Dan Haas at this Crownsville site known for vireos and warblers.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

MEMBER PHOTOS

MEMBER PHOTOS

Paul Nistico, MOS member since 1976, photographed a Blackburnian Warbler at Magee Marsh in May.

Talbot County member Wayne Bell found a Northern Shrike (right) at the Pickering Creek Audubon Center (PCAC) while conducting a solo survey under the PCAC eBird Monitoring Program. The shrike is the 227th species to be added to the "Birds of Pickering Creek Audubon Center" list.

H. David Fleischmann captured a stellar shot of the Varied Thrush (opposite page, top) that visited Maryland this winter.

Acting on a report by Mike Burchett, Marcia Balestri raced to the inlet in hopes of finding a Thick-billed Murre (opposite, left). After nearly an hour of searching the bird fortuitously flew right into view through her scope. She found the bird again as it floated into the inlet with the tide and photographed it in the lagoon behind the Oceanic Motel.

Submit your photo to *The Yellowthroat*. Visit https://mdbirds.org/publications/the-yellowthroat/ for submission guidelines.

BIRDING

4/20/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, 410-370-0747. Alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side.
4/20/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Meet at 3001 East Dr to start the walk.
4/20/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Fort Smallwood Hawkwatch	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Bob Rineer, brineer@verizon.com. Description: Try out those Hawk ID skills with a field trip to the Baltimore area's premier spring Hawkwatch site. Last year on the 3rd Saturday this site recorded 12 species of hawks including good numbers of Red-Tailed Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Trip is free, but there's a $6 fee for parking. Meet at kayak launch.
4/20/19	9 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Fred Archibald Sanctuary	Host: Audubon Society of Central MD. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071. Description: Bi-monthly naturalist-led walk.
4/20/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Warblers and Wildflowers at Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Eric Vangrin, evangrin@msn.com or 443-417-7219; Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, and Sue Procell, procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919. Description: Enjoy discovering the beauty of colorful spring wildflowers and the gorgeous spring plumage of migrant and resident bird species. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill.
4/20/19	12 – 3 PM	Beginners' Bird Walk at Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders, Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: In honor of Earth Day, we'll spend 2 to 3 hours exploring several of the Refuge's trails and overlooks, looking for a variety of migrants, from raptors to warblers. Meet at the Tundra Swan Boardwalk.
4/20/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding the Blue Mash Nature Trail and Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Mark England, 240-375-4500 or markengland@canamcontractors.com. Description: Interesting walk at these adjacent and surprisingly birdy sites in Montgomery County. Waterproof boots helpful at Blue Mash, but not needed at the landfill. Meet at Zion Rd parking lot. Call leader for reservations and directions. Trip is limited to 8-10 participants.
4/20/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Governor Bridge	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
4/21/19	8:15 AM – 12 PM	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Peter Lev, 410 952-9426 or plev@comcast.net. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot.
4/21/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding Easton Mill Ponds	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Jan Reese, 410-745-2875 or reesejan@gmail.com. Description: Mill Ponds East of Rt 50 in search of arriving northbound transient species in forested bottomlands in close proximity to Easton. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.
4/23/29	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding Elk Ridge Nature Preserve or New Germany SP	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Leader Liz McDowell. We will look for birds and native plants at the Elk Ridge Nature Preserve. Meet at New Germany SP at 9 AM. Carpool from Ollies in Cumberland leaves at 8:15 AM.
4/23/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
4/24/19	8 – 10 AM	Birding at Iliff Farm	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: A rare opportunity to hike on a private property in Severna Park. The last time we hiked there we had a European gold finch! Contact leader for directions and parking information.
4/24/19	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Sky Meadows	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Anna Hutzell at amp8185@aol.com or 301-797-8454. Description: Leave from the MVA parking lot at 6:30 AM.
4/27/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding the Patuxent North Tract	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Rod Burley, 301-943-5923 or rodburley@aol.com. Description: The North Tract boasts lakes, streams, open fields, and wooded areas. This is the best time of year to see the bluebells that bloom along the Patuxent River as well as a variety of warblers, vireos and resident birds.

4/27/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in Southeast Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave
4/27/19	All day	Birding the C&O Canal and Antietam Battlefield	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. For more details, contact Scott Hodgdon at 443-280-2480. Description: Scott and Matthew Hodgdon are promising lots of warblers and field birds on this trip. Meet at the P&R on Rt 27 just N of I70 in Mt. Airy. Parking at the birding sites may be limited, so we will carpool. Bring a lunch.
4/27/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip: Conowingo Wildflowers and Birds	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Trip leader. David Francis. Description: (depending on weather trip may reschedule a week or so) On the Wildflower Trail at Conowingo we should see Dutchman's Breeches, Virginia Bluebells, Trillium, and other spring wildflowers. The earlier spring migrants, Phoebes and Louisiana Waterthrushes, may be seen, and maybe some lingering winter visitors, like Winter Wren. We may also spend some time scoping the waters below the dam to see what's about. Dress warmly if the weather is unseasonably cold. Easy walking on a level, well-graded trail (short stretches may be a bit muddy). Meet at Fisherman's Park below the Dam at 8 AM.
4/27/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Harford Glen	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Jane Scocca, jane@scocca.org or 410-272-8870, and Susan Hood, susanjhood@comcast.net or 410-937-7552. Description: Enjoy a spring walk through this beautiful preserve. There are trails through woodland, over gently rolling hills and through open meadow. After pausing a while in the parking lot to check for first sightings the group will walk among the triple riparian habitats of the Atkisson Reservoir, Winters Run and Plum Tree Run. The variety of habitat offers great opportunities for good birding.
4/27/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Mt. Pleasant Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com. Description: Earth Day Walk in conjunction with the Howard County Conservancy. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at parking lot near the barn.
4/27/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Fort Smallwood Hawk Watch.	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. Description: We will carpool to Fort Smallwood Park to observe the spring raptor migration spectacle. Migration of non-raptor species is also noteworthy. About 260 species of birds have been observed at the Park. Bring folding chair, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, drinks and snacks. Also bring cash for daily parking fee of $6 per vehicle if you don't have an annual pass. Meet at the Bowie P&R. No reservations needed.
4/27/19	8 AM – 4 PM	Smith Island Excursion	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Contact leader Terry Allen 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com for more information. Description: Always a nice mix of waterbirds, herons, egrets, Brown Pelicans and a few migrant songbirds. Directions and more information will follow via our listserv. Arrangements through Delmarva Birding Weekend. Cost to be determined, includes crab cake lunch. Depart Somer's Cove Marina in Crisfield at 8 AM; travel across Tangier Sound and make stops on Smith Island at the villages of Ewell and Tylerton to bird and take in the sights.
4/27/19	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Nassawango Preserve	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For more information, contact trip leaders Betty Pitney at 410-543-1853 or Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Field trip for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM. Bring drinks, lunch and snacks.
4/27/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at City Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Larry Zaleski, larry.zaleski@gmail.com or 301-491-2866. Description: Bird Hagerstown's lovely City Park. This is one in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. Meet 8 AM at the Hager House parking lot
4/28/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Oregon Ridge and Agricultural Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com. Description: Oregon Ridge is a good spot in April for warblers, thrushes, and other passerines. The Center for Maryland Agriculture, just across Shawan Road, has a variety of open habitats; we'll look here for sparrows, meadowlark, Killdeer, etc. Meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd.
4/28/19		Birding along the C&O Canal	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact leader Lois Kauffman (301-845-6690) for meeting time and location. Description: Spring wildflowers and early migrants.
4/28/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Millington NRMA	Host: Kent County Bird Club. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders. Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Migrating warblers should be on the move while some breeding specialties will be setting up territories in Kent County's most extensive forest. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

BIRDING

4/28/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Occoquan Bay NWR	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net. Description: Explore the diverse habitats in this refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. A variety of raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge. Reservations required. Limit 25.
4/28/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Hope House Farm	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Ron Ketter, rgketter@gmail.com. Description: This property provides a mixed habitat of forest, forest edge, fields and tidal waterfront. We will be looking for new spring arrivals including thrush species, flycatchers and orioles. Numerous sparrows should be present, and the property provides nesting sites for a full range of woodpeckers. Lingering waterfowl may be seen on the broad reach of water that can be viewed. Raptors may also be around, especially nesting Eagles and Osprey. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast host Peter Stifel (at Hope House).
4/28/19	7 AM – 5:30 PM	Western Shore Migrant Search	Host: YMOS. Contact George Radcliffe, radcliffg@gmail.com. Description: Search for spring migrants and preparation for the World Series of Birding. Meet at 7 AM at Susquehanna SP for warblers and early migrants, possible Cerulean Warbler, then Swan Harbor for King Rail, Sora, and Least Bittern, Patapsco Valley SP for warblers, and several stops along the C & O Canal ending at McKee-Beshers WMA at 5:30 PM
4/30/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator: Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
5/1/2019	All day	Birding Susquehanna SP	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Peter Hanan, 301-580-2785 or peter.hanan@icloud.com. Description: A warbler paradise, this is home to over 21 kinds of warblers including Cerulean, Worm Eating and Kentucky. Also loaded with Baltimore and Orchard Orioles! Bring lunch and comfortable hiking boots as this will be a full day of non-stop fun! Meet at Millersville P&R at 6 AM or at the Grist Mill parking lot at 7 AM
5/1/2019	8 AM -12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort HcHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Meet outside of park front gates, and park at lot on left hand side.
5/1/2019	7:30 – 10 AM	Trip to Schumaker Pond	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For more information contact trip leader Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Field trip for migrating and summer resident songbirds. This will be a short walk around the two sections of Schumaker Pond; sturdy shoes recommended for walking on dirt trails. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM.
5/2/2019	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
5/3-5/19	All day	Garrett County Bird Fest	Host: Deep Creek SP. Description: Plan to participate with other Allegany/Garrett Bird Club members in a variety of field trips to birding hot spots in Garrett County, such as Jennings Randolph Reservoir, Lost Land Run, The Glades etc. Check out the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center website for schedules and registration at www.discoverycenterdcl.com.
5/3/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Krimgold Park.	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. For more details, contact Bob Ringler at 410-303-2792. Description: This is a new park at 5355 Woodbine Rd in Sykesville. Looking for whatever we can find.
5/3/2019		Pennyfield Lock to Riley's Lock	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact fbcprez@aol.com for meeting time and place. Description: Look for migrants and our returning warm weather feathered friends.
5/3/2019	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding by Ear at Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For more information email the leader Paul Woodward at grackling@ATT.NET. Description: Tune up your ears as we listen for and learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. The trip will be geared to new birders but all are welcome. Limit 10. Reservations required.
5/4/2019	7 – 11 AM	Birding at Swan Creek	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567 or thrushhost@gmail.com. Description: This is an opportunity you don't want to miss now that the top birding spot in Anne Arundel County is restricted! Last year on this hike we had 74 species including high numbers of Warblers (including Blackpoll), shorebirds, ducks, Bobolinks and Little Blue Herons! Wear sturdy shoes as the path is rocky.

5/4/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Susquehanna SP Rock Run	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Trip for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. This is one of the best spring warbler watching sites in Maryland; 18 to 24 warbler species possible in a single day. Bring a picnic lunch for the wrap-up of what could be an excellent morning of birding. Optional extension after lunch to Swan Harbor Farm Park for shorebirds, herons, rails and bitterns. Contact the leaders in advance for possible carpooling. Meet at the lot at the end of Rock Run Rd, next to the old mill building.
5/4/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip to Fair Hill NRMA	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Trip leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net. Description: Fair Hill NRMA has designated approximately 100 acres of grassland as preserved habitat for ground-nesting birds. This will benefit Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Northern Bobwhite. Fair Hill NRMA and its contracted hay farmer have collaborated on a strategic mowing schedule that leaves the prime nesting area uncut through mid-July. Meeting place is at the North Appleton Parking lot #3 (2895 Appleton Rd).
5/4/2019	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Fred Archibald May Count	Host: Coordinator David Smith (410-549-7082). Description: Meet at the Sanctuary at 6:30 AM.
5/4/2019	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Eleventh Annual Epic Birding Challenge at Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club. Coordinator Tom Gibson, gibsonlld@aol.com or 410-734-4135. Description: Join us for our eleventh anniversary Challenge. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. The rules allow all to contribute to the fun and success of each team. Meet at Rock Run Mill at 6:30 AM for team selections and rules review. Counting will begin at 6:45 AM and end at 11:30 AM. A rally celebration will be held at 12 noon at a nearby restaurant in the Havre de Grace area. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration.
5/4/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
5/5/2019	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Join us for the monthly walk along paved paths as well as grass and dirt paths through varied habitat. We will be looking for Fox Sparrows and other winter residents. Meet at top parking lot past the sports fields.
5/5/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Days Cove	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Contact leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: We'll hike around the marsh edge as it comes alive with wildlife activity. Possible birds include Virginia Rail, raptors, Marsh Wren. This area is not normally open to the public. Canceled in inclement weather. Pre-registration is required. Participation limited to 20 people.
5/5/2019	8:15 AM – 12 PM	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot.
5/5/2019	7 – 7:45 PM	Chimney Swifts at Dusk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net, and Alice Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alice.display@verizon.net. Description: The swifts have been returning regularly to the Bookbindery Chimney in Hampden, so that is where we will probably hold the watch. We will observe the chimney the week before, and should it not be productive, we will post a change of venue on the BBC website. Be sure to double check! If cloudy or a drizzle, come a half hour early. Canceled if raining. Binoculars useful but not necessary.
5/5/2019	8 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Killens Pond SP, DE	Host: Caroline County Bird Club. Description: Meet at the Visitor's Center. There is an $8 entrance fee per car, so car-pooling is advised.
5/5/2019	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Western Regional Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com. Description: Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at Carr's Mill Rd parking lot.
5/5/2019	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Izaak Walton League Property	Host: Montgomery Bird Club and Izaak Walton League, B-CC Chapter. For reservations and more information, contact leader Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517. Description: The B-CC Chapter is generously providing us access to this property. Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be well underway. Trip will start at 7 AM at the League's Chapterhouse. Reservations required, limit 12.
5/5/2019	6:30 AM – 4 PM	Trip to Susquehanna SP	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009 or vdesanctis@verizon.net. Description: Prime migration location; possibly 12-15 (or more) warbler species (including Cerulean, Hooded & Kentucky), vireos, thrushes, flycatchers. We will not be back until mid-afternoon thus lunch or snacks should be taken. Facilities are available at a very nice picnic location in the park. Depart Easton Acme at 6:30 AM.

MEETINGS

3/1/19	6 – 9 PM	Churchville Presbyterian Church	Harford Bird Club	Nick Spigler, Youth Birder and HBC member, will present his personal experience at ABA Camp Avocet. Plus Awards night. Dinner at 6 PM; Meeting 7:30; Presentation 7:45.
3/2/19	10 AM – noon	Harford Glen	MOS Board Meeting	MOS Board Meeting at Harford Glen.
3/3/19	4:30 – 7:30 PM	Vollmer Center at Cylburn	Covered Dish Dinner: Baltimore Bird Club	Peter Kaestner will share stories from his Forrest-Gumpian life in a lecture called "From Zero to 9000—a life of listing." Sign up at PerfectPotluck.com. To sign in enter the coordinator's name, "GRAFF", and the password, "BBC19." Contact Kevin Graff at keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or call Peter Lev at 410-952-9426.
3/5/19	7 – 9 PM	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum	Baltimore Bird Club	Gail Mackiernan will talk about her November 2015 trip to Madagascar.
3/6/19	7 – 9 PM	Carroll Nonprofit Center	Carroll County Bird Club	"Birding India" by Dave Harvey. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com
3/7/19	7 – 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Frederick Bird Club	John McCann will speak on dragonflies and damselflies.
3/8/19	6:30 – 9 PM	Woodend	Montgomery Bird Club	Our Annual Club Social at Woodend. More information to follow!
3/11/19	7 – 9 PM	Bayleigh Chase Auditorium	Talbot Bird Club	Marcia Watson will speak on "Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries: From Mountains to Saltmarsh".
3/12/19	7 – 9 PM	Compton Hall, Frostburg State U	Allegany/Garrett Bird Club	Clair Nemes will speak on "Population Ecology of Birds and Free Roaming Domestic Cats"
3/12/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Heron Point	Kent County Bird Club	"Adventures with Youth MOS" presented by MOS Youth members.
3/12/19	7 – 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	"North on the Wing—Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring", presented by Dr. Bruce Beehler. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time.
3/14/19	7 – 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Howard County Bird Club	"Chasing a Desert Apparition: La Conte's Thrasher," by Jay Sheppard. Info: Mary Lou Clark, 420-465-4061.
3/20/19	7 – 9 PM	Blue Heron Center	Anne Arundel Bird Club	"The Ordinary, Extraordinary Chimney Swift" with Joan Cwi. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com
3/21/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Caroline County Public Library	Caroline County Bird Club	Andi Pupke, Education/Outreach Director of Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, will present "CWH's Tagging Program & Research of Monarch Butterfly Migration".
3/24/19	2 - 4 PM	Vollmer Center at Cylburn	Baltimore Bird Club	Book Launch for "Birds of Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia" by author Bruce Beehler and photographer Middleton Evans. Co-sponsored by BBC, MOS, Cylburn Arboretum Association and Johns Hopkins University Press.
3/25/19	7 – 9 PM	MAC Education Center	Tri-county Bird Club	"Marcia's 2019 Bird Quiz". Club member Marcia Balestri will test member's ID skills with her latest quiz. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more info.

Questions? Contact the calendar editor: calendar@mdbirds.org

3/26/19	7 – 9 PM	Mt. Aetna Nature Center	Washington County Bird Club	Program TBA
4/2/19	7 – 9 PM	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum	Baltimore Bird Club	Greg Kearns will speak on Sora Rails at Jug Bay. ALSO VOTE TONIGHT FOR BBC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2019-2020. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, presentation starts about 7:15 PM.
4/3/19	7 – 9 PM	Carroll Nonprofit Center	Carroll County Bird Club	"Nature Journaling with Sketches, Tips, and Advice for (Non-) artistic Birders" by Ikumi Kayama. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.
4/4/19	7 – 9 PM	Homewood at Crumland Farms	Frederick Bird Club	Phil Davis will speak on "Chasing the Endemics of the Canary Islands and Cape Verde".
4/8/19	7 – 9 PM	Bayleigh Chase Auditorium	Talbot Bird Club	"Feathers" by Anne Walker. Anne will update her wonderful talk to the Master Naturalist class at Blackwater NWR.
4/9/19	7 – 9 PM	Compton Hall, Frostburg State U	Allegany/Garrett Bird Club	James McCaan, MD DNR State Zoologist, will present "An Overview of Maryland's Dragonflies and Damselflies"
4/9/19	7 – 9 PM	Heron Point	Kent County Bird Club	Program TBA.
4/9/19	7 – 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	"The Ordinary, Extraordinary Chimney Swift" presented by Joan Cwi. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time.
4/11/19	7 – 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Howard County Bird Club	"Wildlife Rehabilitation," by Kathleen Woods, director of the Phoenix Wildlife Center. Info: Mary Lou Clark, 420-465-4061
4/17/19	7 – 9 PM	Blue Heron Center	Anne Arundel Bird Club	The Annual John W. "Bud" Taylor Wildlife Lecture: "Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird" with Katie Fallon. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com
4/18/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Caroline County Public Library	Caroline County Bird Club	Janice Ward, Lower Eastern Shore Coordinator, MD Bluebird Society, will present "The Eastern Bluebird".
4/22/19	7 – 9 PM	MAC Education Center	Tri-county Bird Club	"YMOS" presented by George Radcliffe, director. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more info.
4/23/19	7 – 9 PM	Mt. Aetna Nature Center	Washington County Bird Club	Program TBA
4/24/19	7 – 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Montgomery Bird Club	Program TBA

Any MOS Member may contribute to *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. Please mail submissions to the Editor by March 25 for the May/June 2019 Issue.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

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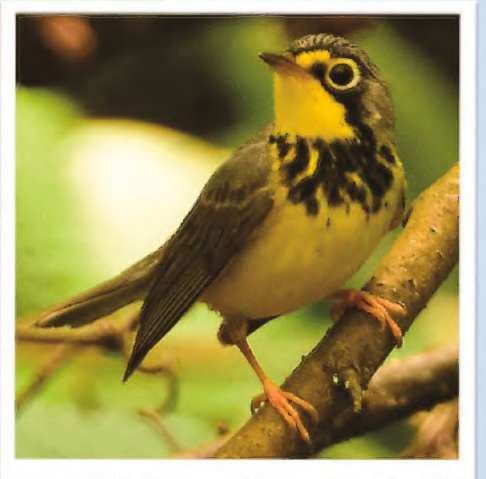

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